



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **TWO KC MEN RECEIVE MULTIPLE LIFE SENTENCES FOR CRACK COCAINE CONSPIRACY**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two Kansas City, Mo., men were sentenced in federal court today for participating in a conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine.

**Thomas N. Johnson**, 25, and **Lamell T. Jones**, 25, both of Kansas City, were each sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this afternoon to multiple terms of life in federal prison without parole.

On July 13, 2005, **Johnson** and **Jones** were convicted by a federal trial jury of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine between Dec. 6 and 7, 2003, and of aiding and abetting one another in the possession with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine on Dec. 7, 2003. Each defendant was sentenced as a career offender, due to prior criminal felony convictions, to life in prison on each of those two counts.

In addition, **Jones** was found guilty of possession with intent to distribute five grams or more of crack cocaine on Aug. 20, 2003, and possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine on Dec. 7, 2003. **Johnson** was also found guilty of possession with intent to distribute marijuana on Dec. 7, 2003, in Kansas City.

**Johnson** and **Jones** were initially arrested after law enforcement officers attempted to investigate a potential car accident on Dec. 7, 2003. At the time, **Johnson** attempted to flee the scene on foot, but was quickly apprehended. As officers arrested **Johnson**, **Jones** and another passenger also attempted to flee on foot. Officers observed **Jones** discard a clear plastic bag as he began to run. **Jones** was quickly captured, Graves said, but the third unknown party escaped.

The bag that **Jones** discarded contained 4.46 grams of crack cocaine, individually wrapped in nine smaller bags, Graves said. Law enforcement officers also discovered that **Jones**

was in possession of \$3,149.

A search of **Johnson** revealed in his possession a purple Crown Royal bag holding 37 plastic bags each containing marijuana. The total weight of the marijuana was 90.8 grams. A search of the vehicle revealed an additional 57.3 grams of crack cocaine under the driver's seat.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David DeTar Newbert. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)